

sumptuous free lunches for Congressmen at the finest restaurants in Washington, paid for by special interest lobbyists.

While lobby freebies may win tax breaks for special interests, eliminating the School Lunch Program will in the long run increase the burden on every American taxpayer. It is clear where Republican priorities are. They will let the lobby moochers keep their free lunches and eliminate the School Lunch Program for America's kids.

□ 1045

SUPPORT RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY REGARDING MEXICAN BAILOUT

(Mr. STOCKMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today a little bit surprised to see that we are giving away billions of dollars to a country in which the president has been implicated in the murder of another presidential candidate. We are talking about real tax dollars and real money, and I am proud to say that I am going to reach across the aisle and support the Kaptur amendment today to ask some serious questions from our President.

We are planning to give away \$53 billion without any oversight from Congress. It is the people's money and the people need to speak and say where we stand. I stand here saying that Congress needs to know what Clinton is doing with the money from an organization which has no oversight by Congress. I plan to support the Kaptur amendment.

SUPPORT HOUSE RESOLUTION 80, INQUIRY REGARDING MEXICAN BAILOUT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. First let me thank the gentleman from Texas for the bipartisan nature of an important resolution on which we will vote this afternoon. I wish to draw my colleagues' attention to it.

Mr. Speaker, today the American people are going to win the first vote being allowed in this Congress on the misguided taxpayer-backed bailout of the Government of Mexico.

As a result of a procedure we employed to force the leadership of this House to let us vote on the first step in getting to the bottom of this, the House this afternoon will vote on House Resolution 80, a bipartisan resolution of inquiry which requires the administration to answer key questions regarding its \$52 billion bailout of Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on House Resolution 80. Get answers to questions for your constituents such as who are the private creditors who will benefit from this rescue package? How solid is Mexico's pledge of oil collateral? Demand answers for your constituents.

This will be the first vote in many to follow, I hope, so we can get to the bottom of who our taxpayers are being asked to bail out.

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of March. Today is the first day of Lent. Today is the first day of the third month that we do not have a U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Is having a Secretary of Agriculture important? Apparently not to this administration. Or maybe it is agriculture issues that are not important to this administration.

And what are agriculture issues? Food stamps, nutrition, School Lunch Programs, to name a few. Yes, that is right. For all the bureaucratic belly-aching over School Lunch Programs, neither the President nor the Senate Democrats have pushed for the confirmation of a new Secretary of Agriculture.

Could there be a slight disconnect here, Mr. Speaker? And what else besides the School Lunch Program is in jeopardy or up for grabs? The 1995 farm bill, the Delaney clause, the Market Promotion Program, minor use pesticides. But forget these. How about every item on your table, everything you buy at the grocery store?

Is it not important enough to the American consumers for the President and the U.S. Senate to confirm a new Secretary of Agriculture?

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA CALLED HIT ON SCHOOLCHILDREN

(Mr. TUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, in the parlance of lexicography, a contract is something that is a promise to be upheld or fulfilled. But in the common vernacular, a contract is also something that we understand is a hit that is put out on someone.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about the contract on America and it is exactly that. It is a hit on America. But today we understand who that hit is really on. When we read an article in the L.A. Times today that the Agriculture Department tells us that there is going to be a \$1 billion hit on schoolchildren in terms of the School Lunch Program elimination, we understand

what the contract on America really is.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, on Capitol Hill there were more people walking the halls than you could ever imagine, and that is just the beginning.

Yes, the first day of March is the first day of the beginning of the end of the Republican contract on America, because the chickens have come home to roost and we finally understand who the hit is on and it is on the 13 million American children of this country.

BLOCK-GRANT PROPOSAL LOSER FOR MISSOURI

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am for the balanced budget and I am for welfare reform. Last weekend in my district, I met with concerned child care advocates at a place called Cradles and Crayons which takes care of the medically fragile children in my community. The room was packed with school nutritionists, child care providers, administrators, parents, and concerned citizens. I listened and I learned. They are unanimous in their concern regarding how we balance the budget and reform our welfare system, and their particular concern was with this proposal for block grants for children's programs, particularly the Children's Nutrition Program.

Their historical experience has been that when the Federal Government block grants, that usually means less money. Their outrage was around a program such as school lunches and that a program that had worked for over 40 years would be in jeopardy as a result of this block-grant concept. In the Independence district alone, Harry Truman's home district, they were going to lose \$500,000 under the block-grant proposal put forward by the Republicans. The story was the same in Grandview, in Raytown, all over my district. The State of Missouri would lose lunches for 150,000 children.

Mr. Speaker, the message was clear: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Congress needs to balance its budget but not on the bellies of our children.

FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, WIC works.

It is a program that services low-income and at-risk women, infants and children.

Pregnant women, infants 12 months and younger and children from 1 to 5 years old, are the beneficiaries of the WIC Program.

For every dollar this Nation spends on WIC prenatal care, we save up to \$4.21.